

History 79-336: Epidemic Disease and Public Health Responses

Room: BH 255A

Time: Tuesday, Thursday 10:30 - 11:50

Instructor: Caroline Jean Acker

Office hours: By appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays

Office: Baker Hall 252

Campus phone: 412-268-6040

Home phone: 412-362-9638 (okay to call between 9:00 am and 10:00 pm)

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Texts:

Margaret Humphreys. *Yellow Fever and the South*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992.

Alan M. Kraut. *Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the "Immigrant Menace."* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1994.

Allan Brandt. *No Magic Bullet: A Social History of Venereal Disease in the United States since 1880*. Oxford University Press, 1987.

Warwick Anderson. *Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines*. Duke University Press, 2006.

Diana Hacker. *A Pocket Style Manual*. 4th edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2003.

Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Policies: Class discussions form an integral part of the course; therefore, consistent and punctual attendance is essential. You are expected to have read the day's reading and understood it so that discussion can build from that understanding. Class is most rewarding for all when everyone has done the reading and has something to say about it. You are entitled to three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. Each additional unexcused absence will result in your class participation grade dropping by a third (for example, from B- to C+). Absences are excused upon presentation of a note from a health care provider.

Quality of writing is central to assignment grades. Writing commits you to a line of argument, and your writing should develop that argument logically, with clear evidentiary support. Moreover, your writing will be judged for clarity, coherence, and eloquence. Broadly speaking, the following criteria determine letter grades for assignments:

D: Problems of content and organization; failure to capture the essential argument of the readings; problems of grammar and style.

C: Adequate summary of relevant points from the readings; development of your own perspective on the theme of the assignment. Some problems of organization, grammar, and style.

B: Excellent summary of relevant points from the readings; development of clear analytical perspective of your own; some original thinking of your own; minor problems of organization and clarity; few errors of grammar and style.

A: Excellent summary and critical assessment of relevant points from the readings; original and thoughtful argument of your own from a clear analytical perspective; writing that is clear and sometimes elegant; no significant problems of content or organization; very few, very minor errors of grammar and style.

DRAFT AND REVISION OPTION: I will grade and return essays. You have the option of revising the essay, incorporating my feedback, and resubmitting it one week from the day I return it. I will enter the revised grade as the grade for that assignment.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM: All students are responsible for reading and understanding Carnegie Mellon's Cheating and Plagiarism Policy, which can be located at the university's web site.

ASSIGNMENTS: Written assignments will consist of four essays of about 1,000 words (about 4 double-spaced pages); three research assignments (in preparation for final presentation and paper); and a final paper of about 2,000 words (about 8 double-spaced pages). Students will also prepare group presentations based on the research for the final paper.

Course grades will be based on the following formula: essays, 40% (10% each); research assignments, presentation and final paper, 40%; class participation (attendance and discussion, including asking questions), 10%.

WEEK 1: Jan. 16 and 18

Jan. 16: Introduction.

Jan. 18: Günter B. Risse, "Epidemics and History: Ecological Perspectives and Social Responses." Charles E. Rosenberg, "Disease and Social Order in America: Perceptions and Expectations." Both in *AIDS: The Burdens of History*, edited by Elizabeth Fee and Daniel M. Fox. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988. Posted to Blackboard. NOTE: Check Blackboard after 5:00 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 17, for announcement on

whether class will meet this day. If it does not, these articles will be discussed only on Jan. 23.

WEEK 2: Jan. 23 and 25

Jan. 23: Continued discussion of Risse and Rosenberg.

Jan. 25: Humphreys, 1-44.

WEEK 3: Jan. 30 and Feb. 1

Jan. 30: Humphreys, 45-112.

Feb. 1: Humphreys, 113-82. **First essay due.**

WEEK 4: Feb. 6 and 8

Feb. 6: Research discussion.

Feb. 8: Kraut, 1-49.

WEEK 5: Feb. 13 and 15

Feb. 13: Kraut, 50-104.

Feb. 15: Kraut, 105-65.

WEEK 6: Feb. 20 and 22

Feb. 20: Kraut, 166-225.

Feb. 22: Kraut, 226-75. **Second essay due.**

WEEK 7: Feb. 27 and Mar. 1

Feb. 27: Research discussion. **First research assignment due.**

Mar. 1: Brandt, 3-51.

WEEK 8: Mar. 6 and 8

Mar. 6: Brandt, 52-121.

Mar. 8: No class.

WEEK 9: Mar. 20 and 22

Mar. 20: Brandt, 122-60.

Mar. 22: Brandt, 161-82.

WEEK 10: Mar. 27 and 29

Mar. 27: Brandt, 183-204.

Mar. 29: No reading; discussion of AIDS. **Third essay due.**

WEEK 11: Apr. 3 and 5

Apr. 3: Research discussion. **Second research assignment due.**

Apr. 5: Anderson, 1-44.

WEEK 12: Apr. 10 and 12

Apr. 10: Anderson, 45-103.

Apr. 12: Anderson, 104-57. **Third research assignment due.**

WEEK 13: Apr. 17 and 19

Apr. 17: Anderson, 158-206.

Apr. 19: No class; Carnival.

WEEK 14: Apr. 24 and 26

Apr. 24: Anderson, 207-34. **Fourth essay due.**

Apr. 26: Student presentations.

WEEK 15: May 1 and 3

May 1: Student presentations.

May 3: Student presentations.

May 4: Final paper due.